



YELLOWSTONE COUNTY DUI TASK FORCE

P.O. Box 20982 • Billings, Montana 59104

Yellowstone County DUI Task Force

January 15, 2015

Present: Nick Owens, Keith Edgell, Kent O'Donnell, Monty Wallis, Stephanie Hons, Sharmon Brougham, Jeannie Martin, Kevin Holland, Chantel Anderson, Brandon Ihde, Walter Shore, Chris Anderson, RD Harper, Paul Chaon, Sara Mahoney, Darla Tyler-McSherry. **Excused:** Roger Gordon, Mary Aggers, Sarah Reil.

Meeting called to order at 12:03 PM.

A motion was made to approve the November meeting minutes. Motion seconded and approved.

Chantel Anderson from the Public Defender's Office attended the meeting and submitted a letter of interest to become a member of the Yellowstone County DUI Task Force. Additionally, Paul Chaon from County Attorney's Office is interested in becoming a member as well. Fish, Wildlife, and Parks has submitted the names of two people, Chris Anderson and Todd Anderson, for membership. Nick recommended all interested parties submit letters of interest to the Task Force so that the process is alignment with our bylaws.

Nick provided a budget update. An electronic copy of the report generated by County Finance was sent to members at an earlier date.

The web traffic report shows a consistent increase in site visits immediately prior to the monthly meetings.

Members agreed the Angel Tree/Award of Merit ceremony was another successful event. It was acknowledged the Billings Gazette did a great job in highlighting the Award of Merit recipients. Nick has graciously agreed to emcee the event now that Rod Souza has become a Judge and is no longer in the County Attorney's Office. A suggestion was made to place something on the tree each year there are no angels to place, such as this year. One suggestion was to place a dove on the tree, as a symbol of peace and hope. Additionally, it was suggested to note on the Victim's Plaque that there were no innocent victim deaths for that year.

The holiday media campaign report is tabled until the February meeting.

Nick provided an update on pending legislation regarding DUI issues. Unofficially referred to as "the Big Bill" it aims to clean up language in existing DUI laws and sentencing loopholes. No draft is available yet. Other pending legislation is a BUI bill, which would make BUIs a stackable offense just as DUI for felony designation. HB 214 looks to make penalties same as DUI for BUI and be placed on the driving record as well. HB 178 looks at rules of evidence regarding allowing evidence of prior DUIs. HB 202 allows for a provision for a new check box on license plate registrations, where people can donate one dollar to drinking and driving prevention. The funds would be forwarded to County Treasurers, and the interpretation is that those funds would come back to that county's DUI Task Force. Another pending bill (bill # not assigned yet) looks to repeal per se laws regarding THC concentrations-marijuana—keep a watch on.

Stop drivers under the influence

Officers Ihde and Gilmore have volunteered to coordinate a DUITF presence at the upcoming St. Patrick's Day parade. He estimated supplies and parade fee registrations to total around \$250. A motion was made to support this project in the amount of up to \$250. Motion seconded and approved.

Officer Ihde shared a certificate from the Laurel Holiday parade, in which the DUI Task Force received an Honorable Mention for its entry as well as a personal card from the event organizers. Thanks to Officers Gilmore and Ihde for coordinating this presence as well. Officer Ihde will share photos from the event to be placed on the DUITF website and upcoming social media.

We are beginning to receive donation requests for the senior non-alcoholic graduation parties from high schools within the county. A motion was made to support these parties for up to \$2500 to be evenly split among schools that submit letters by April 1.

Sharmon provided an update on the Crime Prevention Conference. It will be held in Missoula at the UM campus October 6-8. Submissions for program proposals are due January 31. Keynote speakers include John Underwood and Jermaine Galloway.

Darla reminded the group that the deadline for reimbursement requests for RFPs from the July 1-December 31, 2014 cycle and reports are due by January 31.

Meeting adjourned at 1:05 PM.